

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on October 12, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, October 12, 2007

The President's Radio Address

October 6, 2007

Good morning. One important commitment of the Federal Government is to help America's poorest children get access to health care. Most of these children are covered by Medicaid, which will spend more than \$35 billion to help them this fiscal year. For children who do not qualify for Medicaid but whose families are struggling, we have the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP.

Washington is now in the midst of an important debate over the future of this vital program. I strongly support SCHIP. My administration has added more than 2 million children to SCHIP since 2001. And our 2008 budget increases SCHIP funding by 20 percent over 5 years.

Unfortunately, more than 500,000 poor children who are eligible for SCHIP coverage are not enrolled in the program. At the same time, many States are spending SCHIP funds on adults. In fact, based on their own projections for this fiscal year, Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan, Rhode Island, and New Mexico will spend more SCHIP money on adults than they do on children. And that is not the purpose of the program.

This week, congressional leaders sent me a deeply flawed bill that would move SCHIP even further from its original purpose. Here are some of the problems with Congress's plan. Under their plan, one out of every three children who moves onto Government coverage would drop private insurance. In other words, millions of children would move out of private health insurance and onto a Government program. Congress's plan would also transform a program for poor children into one that covers children in some households with incomes up to \$83,000. Congress's plan would raise taxes on working people. And Congress's plan does not even fully fund

all the new spending. If their plan becomes law, 5 years from now Congress would have to choose between throwing people off SCHIP or raising taxes a second time.

Congress's SCHIP plan is an incremental step toward their goal of Government-run health care for every American. Government-run health care would deprive Americans of the choice and competition that comes from the private market. It would cause huge increases in Government spending. It would result in rationing, inefficiency, and long waiting lines. It would replace the doctor-patient relationship with dependency on bureaucrats in Washington, DC. And it is the wrong direction for our country.

Congress knew that I would veto this bill, yet they sent it anyway. So on Wednesday, I vetoed the SCHIP bill. And I asked Members of Congress to come together and work with me on a responsible bill that I can sign, so we can keep this important program serving America's poor children.

When it comes to SCHIP, we should be guided by a clear principle: Put poor children first. I urge Republicans and Democrats in Congress to support a bill that moves adults off this children's program and covers children who do not qualify for Medicaid, but whose families are struggling. If putting poor children first takes a little more than the 20 percent increase I have proposed in my budget for SCHIP, I am willing to work with leaders in Congress to find the additional money.

Ultimately, our Nation's goal should be to move children who have no health insurance to private coverage, not to move children who already have private health insurance to Government coverage. By working together, Republicans and Democrats can strengthen SCHIP, ensure that it reaches the children who need it, and find ways to help more American families get the private health coverage they need.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on October 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to H.R. 976, the “Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.” The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Representative Jo Ann Davis

October 6, 2007

Laura and I are deeply saddened that Representative Jo Ann Davis lost her courageous battle with breast cancer today. Her determination to fight the disease is an inspiration to all of us.

Over the course of her four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, she was an effective advocate for the people of her district and a strong supporter of our men and women in uniform. She was a fine example of a public servant who worked hard to cut Government waste to ensure the people’s money was used wisely. Her commonsense values will be missed on Capitol Hill.

Laura and I send our thoughts and prayers to her husband, Chuck, their two sons, and the rest of the Davis family during this difficult time.

Remarks at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland

October 7, 2007

Thank you all. Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. David, thank you very much for your introduction. Nothing better than being introduced by an old fire chief. And I thank you for your service, Dave. It is such an honor to be here. I was telling Laura on the phone—she didn’t make it; I apologize, and so does she—but I said, I’m going down the hill—I was up at Camp David—I’m going down the hill to be with some remarkable people and their families and to honor those who served. I

said, I can’t wait to go and to—be in their midst because I hold the firefighters in such high regard. I have a deep respect in my soul for people who serve our communities.

As David mentioned, far too often we go to sites that have been devastated by natural disaster, for example. Every time, the firefighters are there—every time. It’s clear that the people here who wear the uniform have a different view of jurisdiction than a lot of our citizens. You know, from New York after 9/11 to New Orleans after Katrina, there were firefighters from around the country there to help. The bond between the firefighters is obviously unique; it is definitely a source of strength. And it’s a reminder that the work here is a calling, not a job.

I want to thank the foundation for working hard to ensure that the families of those who have died in—are well treated. I want to tell you today that the Hometown Heroes Act will be fully implemented. This program will be administrated the way it was intended to be administrated. That’s the least we can do as we honor the families of those who have died in the line of service.

I also am amazed at the compassion I see amongst those who wear the uniform for their comrades. Anyway, thanks for having me. I’m sorry it’s under these circumstances that we have to be together. I hope our presence can help heal your hearts just a little bit. And I’m looking forward to giving you a hug if you want a hug or smiling for a picture if you want to smile for a picture. But most of all, I’m looking forward to honoring your loved ones.

I want to thank Steny Hoyer for joining us. He is—he respects you like I respect you, and he can pay tribute about as eloquently as anybody I have heard. I appreciate Roscoe Bartlett—he’s the Congressman from this district—for joining us as well.

I want to thank the mayor of Emmitsburg, Mayor Hoover, for joining us. I appreciate Chief Cade. I want to thank my friend Hal Bruno, who is the chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I want to thank the members of the board of directors who are here. I appreciate you all coming.

You know, it takes a special kind of person to be a firefighter. It begins with a different sense of direction. When an area becomes

too dangerous for everybody else, you take it over. When others are looking for the exits, our firefighters are looking for the way in. When the frightened occupants of a burning building are rushing down the stairwell, our firefighters are going the opposite direction—up the stairs and toward the flames.

And you wonder where people like this get their courage. I'm sure a lot of it has to do with how they were raised or the examples of other firefighters in the communities in which they live. But the truth of the matter is that courage also comes from the community of firefighters. You work as teams; you share meals together. And when tragedy strikes, your dedication to one another ensures that no family will ever have to face the pain alone.

Your presence here is a sign of that camaraderie. I see grieving widows sitting side by side with a firefighter in uniform—it's the camaraderie of respect and compassion. Today 91 new names go up on this memorial. It is sometimes said of your fallen comrades that they lost their lives in the line of duty. On this day, at this place, we say more accurately: The men and women we honor are people who gave their lives in the line of duty.

We honor the service and sacrifices of firefighters like Kevin Apuzzio of New Jersey. Kevin started his career at age 16 when he joined an emergency medical unit. In college, he signed up for the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Company. Kevin was killed when he was trying to rescue a 75-year-old woman from her burning home. At Rutgers University, where Kevin was a student, they have named a public safety training center after him. And the president of the school put it simply: "We want people to know that a hero walked on this campus."

We honor the service and sacrifice of firefighters like Amy Schnearle-Pennywitt of Michigan. Amy grew up dreaming of becoming a firefighter, and she achieved that dream. On a freezing morning in 2006, the Ann Arbor Fire Department responded to a crash on an icy highway. And Amy arrived on the scene and then was fatally struck by a pickup truck that had skidded out of control. In a tribute, the local newspaper called firefighters like Amy the backbone of our so-

ciety. I believe that too. The editorial put it this way: "We call them. And they come."

We honor the service and sacrifice of firefighters like Destry Horton. Destry worked for two fire departments in Oklahoma, the local department in Chickasha and the Grady County Fire Department. Destry was killed because he gave up a day of golfing so he could go help his comrades battling the wildfires in southern Oklahoma. He suffered terrible burns, and those burns would take his life. I found it interesting that at his funeral, a contingent of firefighters from New York showed up to pay their respects. Here's what one of them said, he said, "It's sort of payback from after September the 11th when we had firefighters from around the world who came to show their support for us. This is a brother, and we wanted to be here."

We are here this afternoon for the same reason. That's why we're here. We're here for the friends and neighbors who risked their lives to keep us safe. And we're here for the colleagues who answered a call and did not come home. We're here for the brave moms and dads who left behind families that now need our love and our strong support.

Families of our fallen firefighters have suffered a terrible loss. No words can ease the ache in your hearts. At this difficult time, we will try to help by taking you in our arms. We offer you our heartfelt and sincere compassion. We hope it is some comfort to know that your loved ones will live on forever in the memory of the communities they served so well.

To the colleagues of those who have fallen: Your fellow firefighters knew the risks when they took the oath of service. Take pride in the example they have set. Honor their memory by carrying on the fine work that they were so proud to do by your side.

And to all Americans: Across our great country, homes still stand and families can go about their lives because firefighters put themselves in harm's way to protect us. So when you walk by a firehouse or see an ambulance on a street corner, take a moment to go up and say thank you. I ask my fellow Americans to pray for their safety, and pray that we live lives worthy of the sacrifices made by those whose names we add to this memorial today.

I appreciate you having me. I ask for the Almighty's blessings on you, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to R. David Paulison, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, who introduced the President; Mayor Jim Hoover of Emmitsburg, MD; Gregory B. Cade, Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration; Richard L. McCormick, president, Rutgers University; and Richard Schmidt, firefighter, New York City Fire Department.

Remarks Following a Meeting on the No Child Left Behind Act Reauthorization

October 9, 2007

Secretary Spellings and I are so pleased to welcome you all to the Roosevelt Room. With us today are a group of concerned citizens from a variety of groups, here to discuss the No Child Left Behind Act. People around this table care deeply about making sure every child gets a good education. We're deeply concerned about school systems that don't focus on each individual. Some school systems are just moving kids through, and as a result, our education system is letting too many children down, too many families without hope. So we're going to strategize and work together to make sure the No Child Left Behind Act is reauthorized and made stronger.

And so I want to thank you all for coming. I love your passion. I appreciate the fact that you care deeply about the future of this country and that you believe, like I believe, every child can learn, and we have an obligation to teach every child how to read and write and add and subtract.

So thank you for joining us. We'll see you all in the Rose Garden here in a minute.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:06 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Also participating in the meeting were the First Lady; John C. Brittain, chief counsel and senior deputy director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Roslyn

McCallister Brock, vice chairman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Board of Directors; Michael Casserly, executive director, Council of the Great City Schools; Wade Henderson, president and chief executive officer, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Lawrence Hernandez, founder, chief executive officer, and principal, Cesar Chavez Academy, Pueblo, CO; Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer, National Urban League; Janet Murguia, president and chief executive officer, National Council of La Raza; Dianne Pich, executive director, Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights; Sonia Rodriguez, chairperson, Coalition for Access to Educational Resources; Ricki Sabia, associate director, National Down Syndrome Society Policy Center; Amy Wilkins, vice president for government affairs and communications, The Education Trust; and Peter Zamora, cochair, Hispanic Education Coalition.

Remarks on the No Child Left Behind Act Reauthorization

October 9, 2007

Good afternoon. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank Secretary Spellings for joining me here. And I appreciate you all—the leaders of the civil rights community and advocates for minority and disadvantaged students—for joining us as well.

We just had a meaningful discussion about our joint commitment to closing an achievement gap that exists in America. We discussed why reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act is vital in ensuring that we have a hopeful America. We don't necessarily agree on every issue, but we do agree that education is a basic civil right and that a good education is important for America.

We agree that our Nation has reached a defining moment in our struggle to secure a good education for every child. And we've come a long way since the days when children were simply shuffled through the schools, just moved grade to grade, whether or not they were learning. See, we believe every child can learn. We don't accept a system that simply shuffles children through the schools. We believe in setting high standards. And we believe that by setting high standards, we encourage greater results for every child. And now the question is whether or not we will finish the job to ensure that every

American child receives a high education—a high-quality education.

Our Nation made an historic commitment nearly 6 years ago when Republicans and Democrats came together to pass the No Child Left Behind Act. The philosophy of the law is this: The Federal Government will invest in education, and in return, we seek results. Instead of just hoping for the best, we've asked States to set clear standards and hold schools accountable for teaching every child to read and do math at grade level. That doesn't seem like too much to ask. In return for taxpayers' money, we expect schools and school districts and States to measure, to show us whether or not a child can read at grade level or do math at a grade level.

And the key to getting good results is measuring. Measuring results helps teachers catch problems early, so children who need help—extra help can get that help. In other words, you can't determine whether a child needs extra help unless you measure. One of the key components of No Child Left Behind, it says, if a child is falling behind, we will provide supplemental services to help that child catch up. Measuring results empowers parents with valuable information about schools, so they can push for change if it's needed. Measuring results means schools are working to close the achievement gap, instead of looking the other way when a student is struggling or falling behind.

No Child Left Behind is helping replace a culture of low expectations with a commitment to high achievement for all. And the hard work being done by principals, teachers, parents, and students across our country is producing results. Last month, we learned that fourth graders earned the highest math and reading scores in the history of our Nation's Report Card, and that's good news. I'm able to report that because we actually measure now in the schools. We learned that eighth graders set record highs for math scores.

We also learned that scores for minority and poor students and students with disabilities are reaching alltime highs in a number of areas. As a result, the achievement gap is beginning to narrow, and the promise of America is expanding for children of all backgrounds. In short, No Child Left Behind is

working for all kinds of children in all kinds of schools in every part of the country.

There is more work to be done. So long as there is an achievement gap, we have work to do. Our goal is to have every child reading and doing math at grade level by 2014. That seems reasonable to me. It seems like a reasonable thing to ask, is to have every child reading at grade level by 2014 or being able to do math at grade level by 2014. So now is the time not to roll back the accountability or water down standards.

It's reasonable to set an important goal such as that because as the global economy becomes more competitive, a good education will become even more important for getting a good job. Unfortunately, nearly half of African American and Hispanic students still do not graduate from high school on time. We need to raise the bar for our high schools as well as for our junior highs and elementary schools. We need to give all our children the skills they need to compete. So I'm going to work with Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the No Child Left Behind Act this year.

My administration has offered several proposals to strengthen this law. By giving local leaders more flexibility and resources, we can help them turn around troubled schools. By giving families with children stuck in low-performing schools the opportunity to choose someplace better, we can raise student achievement. At the same time, we need to increase access to tutoring programs for students who struggle and make sure these children get the special help they need. We need to reward good teachers who improve student achievement in low-income schools. We need to make sure that our country is more competitive and that our children can take advantage of the best jobs this new century has to offer by expanding access to Advanced Placement courses and strengthening math and science education.

As we move forward, we will continue to welcome new ideas. And I appreciate the ideas I heard today. Yet there can be no compromise on the basic principle: Every child must learn to read and do math at or above grade level. And there can be no compromise on the need to hold schools accountable to making sure we achieve that goal. I'll call on

Members of Congress to come together to pass bipartisan legislation that will help us achieve this goal. By working together, we can raise standards even higher, expand opportunity for all Americans of all backgrounds, and build a future where no child is left behind.

Thank you very much. Thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks on Intelligence Reform Legislation

October 10, 2007

Good morning. In August, Congress passed the Protect America Act, a bill to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. This new law strengthened our ability to collect foreign intelligence on terrorists overseas, and it closed a dangerous gap in our intelligence. Since this important measure took effect, our intelligence professionals have been able to gather critical information that would have been missed without this authority. And keeping this authority is essential to keeping America safe.

Unfortunately, when Congress passed the Protect America Act, they set its provisions to expire in February. The problem is, the threat to America is not going to expire in February. So Congress must make a choice: Will they keep the intelligence gap closed by making this law permanent, or will they limit our ability to collect this intelligence and keep us safe, staying a step ahead of the terrorists who want to attack us?

My administration will work with Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to reach an agreement on a bill that will allow us to protect our country. The final bill must meet certain criteria. It must give our intelligence professionals the tools and flexibility they need to protect our country. It must keep the intelligence gap firmly closed and ensure that protections intended for the American people are not extended to terrorists overseas who are plotting to harm us. And it must grant liability protection to companies who are facing multibillion-dollar lawsuits only because they are believed to have

assisted in the efforts to defend our Nation following the 9/11 attacks.

When Congress presents me with a bill, I will ask the Director of National Intelligence whether it meets these criteria. And if it does, I will sign it into law.

Today the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees are considering a proposed bill that instead of making the Protect America Act permanent would take us backward. While the House bill is not final, my administration has serious concerns about some of its provisions, and I am hopeful that the deficiencies in the bill can be fixed.

Congress and the President have no higher responsibility than protecting the American people from enemies who attacked our country and who want to do so again. Terrorists in faraway lands are plotting and planning new ways to kill Americans. The security of our country and the safety of our citizens depend on learning about their plans. The Protect America Act is a vital tool in stopping the terrorists, and it would be a grave mistake for Congress to weaken this tool.

On another issue before Congress, I urge Members to oppose the Armenian genocide resolution now being considered by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. We all deeply regret the tragic suffering of the Armenian people that began in 1915, but this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings, and its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H. Res. 106.

Remarks at a Reception Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

October 10, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. *Sientese. Gracias. Bienvenidos a la Casa Blanca, tambien el jardin de las rosas.* It's a beautiful day. I'm glad you're here. Thanks for coming as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Every year at this time, we recognize the rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic American community and the great

contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country and our character. That's why we're here.

I appreciate so very much Ambassador Sue Schwab, who is the U.S. Trade Representative, for joining us. We're proud you're here, Madam Ambassador. I'm going to say something positive about trade, so I'm glad you came. I appreciate my friend, my dear friend former Attorney General of the United States Al Gonzales. I appreciate Anna Cabral, U.S. Treasurer, and Victor. Thank you all for coming. I'm proud that other members of my administration have joined us. Sarah, it's good to see you; thank you for being here.

I thank my friend Emilio Estefan, who has provided the entertainment. I'm going to say something about the entertainment a little later, but Israel, we're glad you're here.

I appreciate the members of the diplomatic corps. I appreciate the Ambassadors coming. We're proud you're here. Thanks for taking time.

I have just met a remarkable woman that I want to introduce to you. Yamile Llanes Labrada and her daughter Shirlen Garcia have joined me in the Oval Office. Yamile is the wife of a political prisoner in Cuba, Dr. Jose Luis Garcia Paneque. The doctor was a plastic surgeon. He did nothing more than advocate for freedom, and he's now in prison. And not only is he in prison; he's ill. And so one of the messages I have for the Cuban leader is, free this man and free other political prisoners. He's not a threat to you. Let him be reunited with a woman who loves him dearly and his four children. So, Yamile, thanks for coming. We're proud you're here. Sure glad you're here. *Y que Dios les bendiga a su familia y tambien su esposo.*

Citizens of Hispanic descent are the fastest growing population in America. Hispanic Americans strengthen our Nation with their commitments to *familia y fe*. Hispanic Americans enrich our country with their talents and creativity and hard work. Hispanic Americans are living the dream that has drawn millions to our shores—and we must ensure that the American Dream remains available for all. It's an important part of our past, and it's a central part of our future that people from all walks of life feel welcomed

and given the opportunity to realize the blessings of America.

Realizing the promise of this good country requires a good education. You know, I worked hard with Republicans and Democrats to pass what's called the No Child Left Behind Act. That's an important piece of legislation because it raises standards, and it holds schools to account. And the law is working. It's a good piece of legislation. It's working because I can report to you that last month, we saw the results from what's called the Nation's Report Card. The report card showed record performance in fourth and eighth grade math and fourth grade reading. And the report showed that Hispanic students scored alltime highs in a number of areas. And so we need to build on that progress. It's good that we've got a good report card; we want excellent report cards for every child.

I met yesterday with civil rights leaders. See, I believe a good education is a civil right. And we talked about how we can work together to make sure the No Child Left Behind Act is not only reauthorized but is made stronger. The Congress needs to make sure we don't lower standards. Congress needs to make sure we raise standards and hold people to account, so that every child—every child can learn in the United States of America.

Realizing the promise of America requires a growing economy. Last week, we got more good news on this front. The economy added 110,000 new jobs in September, giving us 49 straight months of job growth, and that's a new record. We are now enjoying the longest period of uninterrupted job creation in the history of the United States. The growing economy is the result of good policies, like low taxes, but it's also mainly the result of hard work of workers and entrepreneurs, including hundreds of thousands of Latino businessowners.

And so to keep the economy growing, we've got to make sure we don't raise your taxes. And to keep the economy growing, we've got to open new markets for goods and services. One of the most important markets is in our own hemisphere. Many Hispanic-owned businesses in our country depend on

trade with Latin America. Trade with the region strengthens ties of friendship and commerce. Free trade helps our neighbors prosper.

And so to expand trade with Latin America, we negotiated—and Congress approved—a free trade agreement with five Central American countries as well as the Dominican Republic. And this agreement is working. It's helped American workers. It's new markets for products made here—right here in the United States. And it's helped our neighbors. We want everybody to do well in our neighborhood. We want prosperity to abound.

And that's why we've negotiated new free trade agreements with Peru and Colombia and Panama. For the sake of businesses and sake of our workers and for the sake of prosperity in the neighborhood, the United States Congress needs to approve these three very important trade agreements.

Realizing the promise of the country requires strong communities where people care for each other in times of need. Yamile found help in the United States from people who care about the condition of her husband. A total stranger that didn't know Yamile before she came to the United States said, how can I help you; what can I do? That happens all across our country when Hispanic Americans run soup kitchens and drug treatment clinics and hear the call—God's call—to love our neighbors as we'd like to be loved ourself.

We see this spirit in Hispanic Americans who volunteer as Little League coaches or serve as Big Brothers and Big Sisters or give their time and energy to improve the lives of people that live across the street from them. By caring for others, Hispanic Americans make ours a better and more compassionate nation, and America appreciates the example they set.

Finally, realizing the promise of America requires a secure country. We honor the many Hispanic Americans who wear the uniform here at home, the police and firefighters and emergency rescue personnel who risk their lives each day to protect our homeland and our communities. And we honor the 200,000 Hispanic Americans who serve in our Armed Forces, who are working to spread liberty so we can be secure here

in America, who are doing the hard work today so our children and grandchildren can grow up in peace. I appreciate the fact that they have volunteered in a time of danger, and I'm proud to welcome members of the United States military with us today. Thank you all for coming.

So during Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity that makes our country stronger and the heritage and the spirit that Hispanic Americans bring to this great democracy. To help us celebrate the heritage and spirit, we have an incredible talent, Cachao. He was born in Havana only in 1918. That was before my time. During the late 1930s, he helped popularize the mambo, and over the past half century, he has won a lot of Grammy Awards—most recently in 2005, believe it or not. So if you do the math, you can figure out this man hasn't stopped working. *[Laughter]* He's still clicking, and he's still making good music. And so we're proud to welcome Israel Lopez, better known as Cachao, to here—to the White House. Thank you for coming.

[At this point, Israel Lopez performed.]

The President. I know you'll join me in thanking Cachao for coming. Guess when the first he was here—1948 he played for President Harry Truman. Welcome back. We're sure glad you're here.

Thank you all for coming. I want you to say hello to Yamile again *una mas vez*. We certainly pray for the speedy release of your husband, and we're glad you're here at the White House. No better place to come and recognize the great beauty of freedom. We want to thank you all for joining us as we celebrate the great diversity and freedom of the United States.

Que Dios les bendiga.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Victor G. Cabral, husband of U.S. Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral; Emilio Estefan, Jr., president, Estefan Enterprises, Inc.; and President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba.

Proclamation 8189—General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2007

October 10, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

More than two hundred years after the death of General Casimir Pulaski, we honor the life and legacy of a Polish patriot and American Revolutionary War soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Casimir Pulaski first demonstrated his devotion to the cause of liberty while defending his native Poland and earned a reputation for courage and resolve. He later met Benjamin Franklin in Paris and learned of America's struggle for independence. Inspired by freedom's call, Pulaski joined General George Washington in the American Revolution in 1777 and was soon commissioned as a Brigadier General. General Pulaski recruited and trained a special corps of American, Polish, Irish, French, and German troops, and he became known as "the Father of the American Cavalry." Although he was mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah in 1779, his legacy lives on.

As we celebrate General Pulaski Memorial Day, we honor a son of Poland who stood with our country at the dawn of our independence. Casimir Pulaski's determined efforts in Poland and America remind us of the great contributions Polish Americans have made to our country. Today, we recognize the enduring bond between the Polish and American people, and we are grateful for Poland's efforts in support of freedom and democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq and in the global war on terror.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2007, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I urge Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate activities and ceremonies honoring General Casimir Pulaski and all

those who defend our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., October 12, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr

October 1, 2007

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world celebrating Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast.

The great faith of Islam has enhanced our society and brought comfort and strength to generations in America and around the world. The three day festival of Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and is a time to look forward with a spirit of renewal and hope, and celebrate the rich Islamic tradition of charity and giving. During this holiday, Muslims gather with family and friends to share in traditional food, thank God for His blessings, and reach out to the less fortunate.

Our Nation is proud to be a land of many beliefs, and our society is enriched by our Muslim citizens. On the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, may people of all faiths reflect on the values we hold in common, including love of family, the importance of community, and gratitude to God.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyful celebration. Eid Mubarak.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 11. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Following a Meeting on the National Economy

October 11, 2007

I just had a meeting with members of my economic team—and I thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank Director of the OMB Jim Nussle for his briefing on the newest numbers regarding our deficit.

You know, last February, it was projected that our deficit would be \$244 billion, and today the Director informed us that the deficit—actual deficit is \$163 billion. In other words, as a result of the hard work of the American people, this economy is growing; the growing economy has yielded more tax revenues than anticipated. And because of fiscal restraint, those tax revenues went to reduce our deficit.

The deficit today is at 1.2 percent of GDP, which is lower than the average of the last 40 years. In other words, we have told the American people that by keeping taxes low, we can grow the economy, and by working with Congress to set priorities, we can be fiscally responsible and we can head toward balance. And that's exactly where we're headed.

Now the fundamental question is whether the United States Congress will work constructively with the administration to keep taxes low and to keep spending sound. I look forward to working with members of both parties to continue keeping this—keeping our fiscal house in order, to continue to head for a balanced budget. But it's going to require the Congress to show fiscal restraint, fiscal discipline. One of the reasons why the Constitution wisely gave the President the veto is to help them exercise fiscal discipline and fiscal constraint.

It's very important for Congress to also understand that they should not be trying to take money out of the pockets of the small-business owners and working people. One of the reasons why this economy is robust is because taxes are low. And in order to keep making sure that this economy grows, we've got to keep them low. After all, people are working here in America. We've had 49 consecutive months of uninterrupted job growth, which is a record. And we intend to keep

breaking that record by good fiscal policy here in Washington, DC.

I want to thank you all for your briefing. Thanks for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:04 p.m. in Room 3015 of the New Executive Office Building.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

October 11, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2008–2

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109–102, as carried forward by the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, Public Law 110–5, and the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2008, Public Law 110–92, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks in Miami, Florida

October 12, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Thank you. Thank you for the warm welcome. It's great to be in Miami. I've been looking for my little brother. [Laughter] He must have finally found work. I thank—[laughter]. Just kidding, Jeb.

I thank the Center for Hemispheric Policy and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring this event. And I appreciate you all coming. I appreciate the support that you give for enterprise here in south Florida.

I know you know that—as business leaders and foreign policy thinkers, that one of the pivotal issues facing our country is expanding trade and investment. And that’s what I want to talk to you about today. And it’s a timely message because Congress has some important decisions coming up. I’ve made up my mind about the importance of trade and investment, and now Congress is going to have to make up its mind about trade and investment, especially when it comes to free trade agreements with Peru, Panama, and Colombia.

These agreements will level the playing fields for businesses, workers, and farmers here in the United States. These agreements will help our friends in neighborhoods, and help them lift them out of poverty. These agreements will counter the false populism promoted by some nations in the hemisphere. These agreements will strengthen the forces of freedom and democracy throughout the Americas. I urge the congressional leaders to pass these three Latin American agreements as soon as possible.

And I appreciate you giving me a chance to come here and explain why they’re important.

I want to thank my friend Senator Mel Martinez for introducing me. I appreciate his willingness to serve in the United States Senate. I know this is a nonpartisan meeting, but let me just tell you, he’s doing a fine job.

I want to thank three members from the congressional delegation who are here, the Diaz-Balart boys—Lincoln and Mario—as well as Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. I’m honored you all are here. Thanks for coming.

I appreciate so very much Manny Diaz for joining us today. Mr. Mayor, I’m honored you are here. I thank you for your time. I want to thank the other State—[*applause*]—thank the State and local officials who have joined us. I really appreciate former Secretary Donna Shalala, who happens to be the president of the University of Miami, for sponsoring this event. I thank Hank Klein,

the chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, as well for hosting this. And I thank my friend Chuck Cobb, who’s the chairman of the Florida Free Trade Area of the Americas, Inc., which is a group of citizens concerned about free trade.

We meet at an historic time for this country’s economy. Last week, we learned that September was America’s 49th consecutive month of job creation—that’s the longest uninterrupted period of job growth on record. And just yesterday, we learned that the American economy set new records for exports in a single month. More exports support better and high-paying jobs, and that’s important for our citizens to understand. People who work for companies which export have a higher paying job than someone who doesn’t. And so I believe strongly, to make sure that the historic records we’ve set in the last couple of days continue, that we’ve got to expand trade.

In Miami you know what I’m talking about. You see, you see the value of trade every day. This city is known as the “Gateway to the Americas.” Your openness to Latin America has helped make this city a vibrant center of culture and commerce and enterprise. People who know something about Miami understand the importance of trade to this city’s future. Last year, \$72 billion in trade passed through the Miami area, and nearly half of it went to our neighbors in the south. That trade helped the greater Miami economy grow at 6.7 percent in 2005—that’s more than twice the national average. And the unemployment rate here has dropped to 4.1 percent—that is below the national average.

I think the case for trade is unmistakable in Miami, and we need to make that case all over the country. I’ve come to a place that has benefited from trade so others around the country can understand it can happen in their areas as well. Expanding trade and investment has been a commitment—longstanding commitment of the United States. I’m not the first President to ever stand up and say, we need to expand trade. As a matter of fact, Presidents from Eisenhower to Kennedy to Reagan and Clinton have worked to seize the opportunities of free and fair trade. Opening up foreign

markets for America's goods and services has been a high priority of my administration. In January 2001, America had free trade agreements in force with just three countries. Now we have agreements in force with 14 countries, including 7 in Latin America.

Unfortunately, if we can just talk about trade around America—I don't know what it's like here in Miami, but when you're discussing trade around America, you hear troubling signs. There is a protectionist sentiment that is beginning to gain strength in America and in Congress. Recent trade agreements have passed by slim margins. Deals that were really good for the American economy barely passed the Congress. Advocates of economic isolationism in Congress have claimed the agreements I've just talked about would be "bad for American workers." One Congressman offered this prediction: If the agreements passed, "U.S. college grads will increasingly see a future in flipping hamburgers." That's the kind of rhetoric we're dealing with when it comes to whether or not this Nation ought to be confident and open up markets for goods and services around the world.

The results of the agreements are beginning to come in, and they're proving the critics wrong. In the 4 years since we implemented a free trade agreement with Chile, American exports to that country have more than doubled. In the 4 years since we implemented a free trade agreement with Singapore, American exports to that country have increased by about 50 percent. And in just 1 year since we began implementing a free trade agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic, American exports to that region have grown by 13 percent.

And meanwhile, the U.S. economy has continued to grow and job expansion has been strong and hourly wages are on the rise and the job market for college graduates is bright. When trade expands, American workers gain because our workers are making products for people around the world who want to buy products that say "Made in the U.S.A."

Congress now has an opportunity to build on the success by passing new free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama. Today, all three of these countries enjoy

duty-free access to U.S. markets for virtually all their products. They're shipping their goods our way, and most of those products enter America duty free. Yet when we ship our products their way, most of our products face significant tariffs. Our free trade agreements would knock down many of these barriers and level the playing field for our businesses and farmers and workers. Together, these agreements would expand access to 75 million new customers with a combined GDP of \$245 billion. This May, my administration and Democratic leaders in Congress came together to forge a bipartisan consensus to consider these trade deals. And now it is the time to move forward with these progrowth, prodemocracy agreements.

And the stakes are high. As Congress debates, people across the hemisphere are watching to see if America will uphold its commitment to free and fair trade. In a recent letter to congressional Democrats, former Secretary Shalala—and I thank you for your leadership on this issue—and dozens of her Democratic colleagues wrote this: "Latin America is up for grabs. We fully recognize that asking the United States Congress to vote on these trade agreements is politically charged. Nonetheless, rejecting these agreements would set back regional U.S. interests for a generation. We must not walk away now."

Others who signed the letter include former Senators Bob Graham, Sam Nunn, and Bennett Johnston, as well as many others from the Clinton administration. Those who signed the letter are absolutely correct. Members of both parties in Congress should view these trade agreements for what they are, an historic opportunity to strengthen our economy at home and advance democracy and prosperity throughout our hemisphere. And Congress should approve these agreements soon, so that people across the Americas can see the benefits.

The first new Latin American trade agreement that my administration completed is with Peru. This agreement has great promise because Peru has one of the fastest growing economies in South America. Last year alone, Peru's economy expanded by 8 percent. And with greater prosperity in both our

countries, trade between the United States and Peru has doubled over the past 3 years.

The free trade agreement with Peru would ignite even greater opportunities for both our nations. It would be especially beneficial to businesses and workers and farmers here at home. The free trade agreement would immediately eliminate most of Peru's industrial tariffs as well as many of the barriers to U.S. agricultural exports. It would also provide new market access and fair treatment to U.S. companies that provide services and invest in Peru. Here's what that would mean. If you're a Miami company exporting electronics to Peru, you would go from paying thousands of dollars in tariffs on the products you shipped to no tariff at all. In other words, your product would become more competitive. It would make it more likely you'd be able to sell into a new market. It would instantly make the products affordable. It would give our businessperson more money to invest here at home. The workers would be more likely able to keep their jobs.

A free trade agreement with Peru would strengthen our partnership with an important democracy in South America. Last year, Peru held two rounds of free and fair elections. And through their representatives, the Peruvian people have made it clear they want to increase their ties to the United States. The Peruvian Legislature passed the free trade agreement by an overwhelming margin. And now the United States Congress should show America's commitment in return by passing the Peru agreement quickly and with a strong bipartisan majority.

The second of the new Latin American trade agreements that my administration completed is with Colombia. Colombia is home to 44 million potential customers, more than the population of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina put together. After years of hardship, Colombia's economy is strong and growing, with 6.8 percent expansion last year alone. Colombia is now our fifth largest trading partner in Latin America. And Colombia is the largest market for U.S. agricultural exports in South America.

The free trade agreement would open up Colombia's growing economy to our producers. It would immediately eliminate tar-

iffs on more than 80 percent of American industrial and consumer goods exports. It would provide significant new duty-free access for American crops. The effects would be far-reaching. In Colombia, families would enjoy higher standards of living thanks to more affordable American products and more reliable access to our markets. Here at home, about 8,000 U.S. companies that export to Colombia would find new buyers for their goods and services. And for the first time in history, they would be able to compete in Colombia on a level playing field.

The strategic implications of this agreement are as important as the economic benefits. Colombia is one of America's strongest allies in the Western Hemisphere. It has been under assault by a formidable network of terrorists and drug traffickers, which has put its democracy at risk. In recent years, Colombia's democratically elected President has taken courageous steps to stop drug traffickers and rein in paramilitary groups and enforce the law.

The United States has supported President Uribe's efforts through an initiative called Plan Colombia, which was launched by President Bill Clinton and strongly supported by my administration. The results are striking. Since 2000, kidnappings and terrorist attacks and murders have all dropped substantially. Convictions have increased. Colombia has extradited hundreds of drug traffickers and terrorists to the United States. And the Colombian people are taking back their country from the narcoterrorists.

Some in Congress have expressed concern over violence in Colombia, particularly attacks on trade unionists. President Uribe takes these concerns seriously, and he has responded decisively. He's established an independent prosecutors unit to investigate and punish homicides against labor unionists. He's allowed the International Labor Organization to station a permanent representative in Bogota. He's worked to offer young Colombians better alternatives to a life of violence and drugs, including the new jobs and economic opportunities that would come from a trade agreement with the United States.

Colombia's record is not perfect, but the country is clearly headed in the right direction and is asking for our help. Both Houses of the Colombian Legislature have expressed overwhelming support for the trade agreement with the United States. And now they're waiting to see if we will uphold our end of the deal. If Congress were to reject this committed ally, we would damage America's credibility in the region and make other countries less willing to cooperate in the future. As Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada put it, "If the United States turns its back on its friends in Colombia, this will set back our cause far more than any Latin American dictator could hope to achieve." By its bold actions, Colombia has proved itself worthy of America's support, and I urge the United States Congress to pass this vital legislation as soon as possible.

The third of the new Latin American trade agreements that my administration completed is with Panama. Panama has the fastest growing economy in Central America, with a growth rate of more than 8 percent last year. Our nations have strong ties dating back to the construction of the Panama Canal. Trade has always been a key part of our relationship. Last year alone, our nations exchanged nearly \$3 billion worth of goods.

The free trade agreement with Panama will build on this vibrant trade relationship. It will immediately eliminate tariffs on 88 percent of our industrial and consumer goods exports to Panama. It will open a new market for American farmers and ranchers, including fruit growers here in Florida. It will increase access to Panama's service sector, including its key financial services market. It will open opportunities for American businesses to participate in the Panama Canal expansion project. This is a good agreement, and we will continue to work closely with Congress and the Government of Panama to address the issues necessary to get it approved.

Collectively, these three trade agreements have the potential to boost our economy and strengthen our allies and spread prosperity throughout our region. We want people to be prosperous in our neighborhood. It's in the interests of the United States that prosperity spread throughout the—Latin Amer-

ica and South America. And yet many of our citizens feel uneasy about competition, and they worry that trade will cost jobs. You know, I understand why. I understand that if you're forced to change a job halfway through a career, it can be painful for your family. I know that. And that is why I'm a big believer in trade adjustment assistance that helps Americans make the transition from one job to the next.

In other words, I believe there is a role for the Federal Government, and that is, when a person loses a job because of trade, there's help for that person and family, help to get that person a new education—the community college system, for example, to be able to train that person for jobs which actually exist. Additional college enhances a worker's productivity. And when your productivity is enhanced, so your wages go up. And so rather than focus on—only on the risks or the negative, I think it's important for this country to focus on the much larger benefits of trade. We'll help those whose—lost a job because of trade. But it's important for our country to understand, trade yields prosperity, and prosperity means people will more likely be able to find work.

In the debate ahead, Members of Congress should keep in mind the American businesses and workers and farmers who will gain, who will benefit from a level playing field for their goods and services. They should keep in mind that American consumers will enjoy more choices and better prices that come with trade. They should keep in mind the millions in our hemisphere who will be lifted out of poverty. And above all, Members of Congress should have confidence in the ability of the United States to compete in the world. And they should show that confidence by approving these trade agreements with bipartisan votes.

In addition to these agreements, my administration will continue working to promote trade in other ways. At the national level, we will work closely with Congress to pass a landmark free trade agreement with South Korea. This agreement alone is projected to add more than \$10 billion to our economy, and like our agreements in Latin America, it would strengthen our relationship with a democratic ally in a critical part of

the world. At the regional level, we're seeking broad trade agreements in the Americas and Asia Pacific. And at the global level, we're pushing hard for a successful conclusion to the Doha round of trade talks, which has the potential to lower trade barriers across the world.

All of this will bring us closer to a world that lives in liberty, a world that grows in prosperity, a world that trades in freedom. In our hemisphere, that means an Americas where democratic nations work together to advance peace and justice and security; where the opportunity to succeed is as real in Lima as it is in Los Angeles, in Bogota as it is in Boston; where the opportunity for people to realize dreams is just as real in Panama City, Panama, as it is in Panama City, Florida. [Laughter]

And the vision I have for our hemisphere includes a free and democratic Cuba. [Applause] Thank you. Sit down. Thank you.

Audience member. Viva Bush! [Laughter]

The President. I'm not through yet. [Laughter]

In Havana, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing an end. As Cuba enters a period of transition, nations throughout the hemisphere and the world must insist on free speech, free assembly; they must insist that the prisoners in Cuba be free. And ultimately, we must insist on free and competitive elections. [Applause] *Sientese*. [Laughter]

I appreciate all you're doing to help make the vision of a free and prosperous Americas possible. That's why I've come to thank you. As business leaders who invest in new products and trade with your neighbors, you add to the vitality and dynamism of this region, and that helps our country. As scholars, people who study how to advance freedom and peace and prosperity, you've helped people understand the benefits of free trade, and I appreciate what you're doing.

I ask you to do one thing more, and that is to make sure your voices are heard to Members of the United States Congress. You don't need to worry about these three; don't waste your time. [Laughter] But there are people who need to hear from you. I would ask you to tell them that the free trade agree-

ments with Peru, Colombia, and Panama are essential to our economy. I would ask you to remind them they are essential to our security. And I'd ask you to tell them that they're important for our moral interests.

Thank you for giving me a chance to come by. I appreciate you. *Que Dios los bendiga*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. at the Radisson Miami Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba.

Proclamation 8190—National School Lunch Week, 2007

October 12, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The National School Lunch Program provides millions of lunches to our Nation's children each school day. During National School Lunch Week, we renew our commitment to the health of our children and to ensuring that they receive nutritious meals and develop good eating habits.

Since it began in 1946, the National School Lunch Program has provided nutritious meals in schools across the country. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked to ensure that these meals include fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk and that they meet dietary recommendations so children limit fat, sodium, cholesterol, and excess calories in their diet.

By learning to eat well, children can avoid problems that can lead to serious long-term health problems, including heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. Team Nutrition, part of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, is playing an important role in promoting good nutrition to children in thousands of our Nation's schools, providing training and resources to food service professionals across our country.

National School Lunch Week is an opportunity to recognize food service professionals, school officials, and parents for their dedicated efforts to provide healthy foods to America's children. This week, we recommit ourselves to encouraging children to make

nutritious food choices and lead healthy lifestyles.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of America's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 14 through October 20, 2007, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program in appropriate activities that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., October 15, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 16.

Proclamation 8191—White Cane Safety Day, 2007

October 12, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our country upholds the value of every person, and all Americans deserve an opportunity to realize the American dream. Many citizens who are blind or visually impaired use white canes to achieve greater independence and increase mobility and productivity. On White Cane Safety Day, we celebrate the symbolism of the white cane, and we underscore our dedication to ensuring more individuals have the ability to lead active lives

and achieve their personal and professional goals.

My Administration is committed to helping Americans with disabilities live and work with greater freedom. Through the New Freedom Initiative, we are building on the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act and helping our citizens who are blind or visually impaired gain greater access to the workplace, school, and community life. By working to tear down barriers, we are creating a society where all people are encouraged to reach their full potential and where the promise of our great Nation is accessible for everyone.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2007, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, business leaders, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., October 15, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 16.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

October 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Emmitsburg, MD.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Camp David, MD.

October 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea. He then participated in a briefing on No Child Left Behind Act reauthorization legislation.

October 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Yamile Llanes Labrada and Shirlen Garcia, the wife and daughter of Cuban political prisoner Jose Luis Garcia Paneque, who was arrested in Cuba on March 18, 2003.

October 11

In the morning, in the Situation Room, the President had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with the Wall Street Journal. Later, in the Library, he participated in an interview with Maria Bartiromo of CNBC's "Closing Bell."

Later in the afternoon, on the South Portico, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the Ballou Senior High School Marching Band of Washington, DC. Later, in the East Room, he dropped by a screening of "Ballou: A Documentary Film," which was hosted by Mrs. Bush.

The President announced his intention to nominate Simon Charles Gros to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation (Governmental Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah K. Jones to be Ambassador to Kuwait.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Francis Kennedy to be Under Secretary of State (Management).

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph J. Murin to be President of the Government National Mortgage Association.

The President announced that he has named David M. Clark as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel.

The President announced that he has named John P. Bailey as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Therese Burch as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Advance.

The President announced that he has named Christopher Papagianis as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Michael Y. Scudder, Jr., as Senior Associate Counsel to the President, National Security Council Legal Advisor, and General Counsel.

October 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Pinellas Park, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Brenda Guinand. Then, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee luncheon.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Miami, FL, where he met with Cuban American community leaders. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda to the White House on October 30.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on U.S. trade with Costa Rica

Released October 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1983

Fact sheet: National Strategy for Homeland Security

Released October 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released October 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Fact sheet: FY07 Results: Deficit Declining Towards 2012 Surplus

Released October 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Meet With Ugandan President Museveni

Fact sheet: Latin American and Korean Free Trade Agreements Vital to U.S. Economy and Security

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 9

S. 1983 / Public Law 110–94

Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act